

March 30, 2009

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

A bulletin to keep you and your neighbors informed of current news and happenings in our community. If you do not get this bulletin directly, feel free to email me at cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be sure to get you on the list.

For more District 2 News go to our website at:
www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

We Want To Hear From You!

The link below will navigate you to a list of meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions please call the contact number listed for that meeting.

http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm

How Can You Participate in Howard County Government?

This is your chance to stay informed and involved! Your comments are welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax. All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings

http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm

View the Council's Current Legislation and Stay Informed

The County Council is responsible for adopting the laws of the County. The legislative process generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link
http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm

Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Persons interested in applying for a Board or Commission are invited to view the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/PortalServices/HC_BoardsandCommissions.htm

Fiscal Year – 2010! – How You Can Participate in the Howard County Budget Process!

It's budget season! The County Council would like to hear from you on the proposed FY 2010 budget. Your participation is encouraged and valued. You may testify in person at the scheduled budget public hearings or submit written testimony to the Council during the FY2010 budget process.

Below you will find the budget calendar for FY2010:

****Unless otherwise noted, public hearings and legislative sessions will be held at the Board of Education. Work sessions will be held in the C. Vernon Gray Conference Room at 8930 Stanford Blvd. Columbia****

Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing - Capital Budget

Police

Fire

Library

Recreation & Parks

Community Renewal (housing)

Agricultural Preservation

Public Works

 General County

 Sewer

 Water

 Storm Drainage

 Transportation

 Bridges

 Road Resurfacing

 Road Construction

 Sidewalk/curb

 Intersection Improvements

Monday, April 20, 5:30 p.m.

County Executive's Presentation of the Budget

Monday, April 20, 6:00 p.m.

Hearing- Capital and Operating Budgets

Department Heads testimony only

(all departments except Board of Education, Libraries, Community Colleges)

Tuesday, April 21, 1:00 p.m.

Work Session – Capital Budget

(all departments except Board of Education, Libraries, Community Colleges)

Friday, April 24, 9:00 a.m.

Work Session- Capital Budget (if needed)

Monday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing - Operating Budget

(all departments except Board of Education, Libraries, Community Colleges)

Saturday, May 2, 9:00 a.m.

Public Hearing – Capital & Operating Budgets

Board of Education

Libraries

Community College

Monday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.

Constant Yield Hearing

Monday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.

Legislative Session –

Introduce budget related legislation

Tuesday, May 5, 9:00 a.m.

Work Session - Operating Budget

Legislative and Judicial

Public Safety (Police, Fire)

Public Facilities

Friday, May 8, 9:00 a.m.

Work Session- Capital and Operating Budgets
Board of Education

Friday, May 8, 1:00 p.m.

Work Session – Capital and Operating Budgets
Libraries

Friday, May 8, 2:00 p.m.

Work Session – Capital and Operating Budgets
Community College

Monday, May 11, 3:00 p.m.

Work Session
Community Services, Funds/Revenues

Tuesday, May 12, 9:00 a.m.

Work Session –Operating Budget
General Government

Tuesday, May 12, 12:00 p.m.

*(C. Vernon Gray Conference Room)
Public Hearing – General

Friday, May 15, 9:00 a.m.

Work Session (if needed)
Pending Issues

Monday, May 18, 4:30 p.m.

Work Session (if needed)
Education

Monday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.

Legislative Public Hearing
Including budget related legislation

Wednesday, May 20, 11:00 a.m.

Legislative Session
Adopt Budget

Report an Illegal Sign

You can help us by reporting Illegal Signs with a new online form. The form is available at the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DILP/Permits/Permits_signs_Illegal.asp .

Please be sure to describe the location of the illegal sign in the free-form textual area at the bottom of the form.

For further information on the County's sign code, the sign permit application process, sign sizes, fees and for other answers to frequently asked questions, visit the Department of Inspections, Licenses & Permits page on the County's website http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DILP/DILP_HomePage.htm or call DILP at 410-313-1830.

Council Member Calvin Ball Presents “Financial Wealth and Health 2009” – April 25th!

Did you know that April is Financial Literacy Month? Many of us are learning the true value of a dollar as we revisit our personal budgets during these challenging economic times. It's not easy to navigate these tough waters and you don't have to go it alone.

This year I would like to invite you to my third annual financial wellness event **“Financial Wealth and Health”** on **April 25th, 11a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Café on the Quad at Howard Community College.**

This year's event, will not only provide you with a better understanding of how to manage your finances during these tough times, but how to maximize your financial and personal well-being.

Please spread the word to your neighbors, family and friends! For more information you may contact me at cball@howardcountymd.gov or **410-313-2001.**

A Message from the Howard County Planning Board - ZRA 113 Update!

On March 19, 2009, the Howard County Planning Board closed the oral comments portion of their public meeting on the proposed General Plan amendment and proposed Zoning Regulation amendment (entitled ZRA 113) concerning Downtown Columbia. The Planning Board voted to hold the public record open to receive written comments for an additional two weeks. **The deadline to submit written comments is 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2009.** If you would like to submit your written comments to the Planning Board, please email your comments to planningboard@howardcountymd.gov.

After the record is closed, the Planning Board will be in work session mode to develop recommendations for use by the County Council in the Council's deliberations upon these matters. More information about the Planning Board is at:

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DPZ/boardscommissions.htm#planningboard>. Planning Board work sessions are open to the public, and the public is invited to attend all work sessions.

The General Plan amendment and Zoning Regulation amendment will be heard by the County Council at a future date. This will offer another opportunity for the public to offer comments both orally and in writing. Dates for the Council's meetings will be set after completion of the Planning Board's review.

Mothers and Daughters Talk About Mean Girls – March 31st – April 30th!

The Horizon Councils and the Women's Giving Circle of Howard County (WGC) are hosting a series of discussions for mothers and their teenage daughters, "Mean Girls: Queen Bees, Gamma Girls and Surviving the Female Hierarchy" starting in March, at Howard County branch libraries.

The workshops follow-up the appearance of Rosalind Wiseman, author of "Queen Bees & Wannabes: Helping Your Daughter Survive Cliques, Gossip,

Boyfriends & Other Realities of Adolescence,” at the WGC Annual Meeting on March 18.

The workshops will give mothers and daughters the opportunity to discuss the social and peer pressures on girls. A free dinner is provided. There is no fee, but reservations are required.

The schedule of workshops is:

March 31, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Elkridge Branch Library. **Call 410-313-5077**

April 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Savage Branch Library. **Call 410-880-5980**

April 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Branch Library. **Call 410-313-1950**

April 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Glenwood Branch Library. **Call 410-313-5577**

A free dinner is provided. There is no fee, but reservations are required.

Howard County Office of Workforce Development to Hold Presentation on BRAC Jobs Near You

The Howard County’s Office of Workforce Development, a partner at the Columbia Workforce Center, will be hosting a presentation to update the community on Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) jobs on **Wednesday, April 1 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the auditorium of Howard High School, 8700 Old Annapolis Road in Ellicott City.** The event will feature presenters who represent government agencies and private companies and will allow attendees to learn more about where the BRAC related jobs are, what type of jobs are available and how to apply for them.

Sponsors from the Columbia Workforce Center include the Professional Outplace Assistance Center (DLLR), Employment Services (DLLR) and the Division of Rehabilitative Services (MSDE). In addition, a representative from Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) will explain the security clearance process.

While advance registration is suggested, it is not required. Those with specific questions for presenters are asked to submit them with their registration by e-mailing the Office of Workforce Development at owd@howardcountymd.gov with your name, e-mail address and question. The presenters will attempt to respond to topic areas addressed by the pre-

submitted questions; however, there is no guarantee a specific question will be answered.

For more information, contact the **Office of Workforce Development at 410-290-2609.**

Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program -Upcoming Events!

Long Term Living: Covering the Cost

Extra costs for long-term care may be part of your future. These costs may include in-home care, assisted living, and/or nursing home care. Long-term insurance is one way to prepare for some of these costs, but not the only way. Explore the often-confusing realm of long-term care insurance and consider the ultimate question of whether to buy or not. Discussions are led by representatives of the Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program, Howard County Office on Aging. For questions or to pre-register, please call 410-313-7391. No fee.

**Wed., April 1, 2009 11:00 am Kiwanis Wallas Recreation Center
10481 Frederick Rd., Ellicott City
21042**

Howard County's 2nd Annual Award-Winning "GreenFest" Kicks Off Earth Month

Howard County Government will host the second annual GreenFest on **Saturday, April 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Howard Community College's Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia.** The free event, winner of Maryland's Community Bronze PLANT Award for 2008, offers something for all ages and features exhibits, demonstrations, activities and practical tips for easy ways to "green" your home, workplace and lifestyle. This year's theme is "Energy and Water Conservation."

GreenFest 2009 features more than ninety vendors with information on topics such as energy efficiency and water conservation, green buildings, green

consumer products, living green and leaving a green footprint in Howard County. Several vendors will give away reusable shopping bags and organic treats while supplies last.

For more information and a schedule of events, visit www.hcgreenfest.org or contact Lindsay Leiterman, GreenFest Co-chair, by e-mail at lleiterman@howardcountymd.gov or call (410) 313-2350.

Free Tax Services Available to Low & Middle Income Residents through April 15th!

Free tax preparation is now available to eligible low and middle income residents. **Through April 15** Howard County Senior Centers will serve as the site for **free federal and state tax preparation for Maryland taxpayers**. The service is provided by the AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program, in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Comptroller of Maryland and other state partners.

For information on locations and times, to schedule an appointment or confirm eligibility, Howard County residents should call **410-313-7387**.

For proof of eligibility, those wishing to take advantage of this free tax preparation service should bring a copy of their 2007 tax return, a photo ID, Social Security cards for themselves and any dependents and their 2008 tax information. The free service covers personal returns only; no out-of-state returns or returns involving farms, businesses, rental properties or partnerships. Taxpayers with complex tax returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance.

In addition, free year-round assistance on the Internet allows taxpayers to pose tax questions to on-line assistants 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from the website www.aarp.org/taxaide.

"Come Home to Howard County" Housing Fair – April 18th!

The Department of Housing and Community Development is sponsoring a Housing Fair on **April 18th at Long Reach High School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** The Housing Fair targets individuals and families who currently live in the county or those who live outside the county and are looking for more information on the diverse and affordable home ownership and rental opportunities available in Howard County. There will be real estate professionals, mortgage lenders, housing specialists, educational workshops, hands-on seminars, give-a-ways and county personnel to answer questions or explain more about the programs and services that make Howard County such a great place to “come home to.”

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Department of Housing & Community Development at **410-313-6318**.

Howard County Public Schools Holds Bullying Seminar – April 23rd!

The Howard County Public School System's Office of Student Services will present a seminar for middle and high school students and their parents, featuring Jodee Blanco, "the voice of America's bullied students" and author of the New York Times bestseller *Please Stop Laughing at Me* and the new book *Please Stop Laughing at Us*. The event will be held on **Thursday, April 23, 2009, 7:00 to 8:30 PM, at Howard High School, 8700 Old Annapolis Road in Ellicott City.**

Ms. Blanco will cover a number of bullying topics, such as how to tell if your child is a bully, a target, or a bystander; ways to relate to your child; and how to take action if necessary. A book signing and question and answer period will follow the presentation

The Volunteer Center Serving Howard County Offers New Volunteer Training Courses

On behalf of the Volunteer Center Serving Howard County, please consider adding the following trainings to your schedule to further enhance our community's resilience.

The Volunteer Center, at the request of Howard County's Department of Citizen Services, will assist with the registration and referral of these spontaneous volunteers to requesting registered agencies. Community volunteers are being trained to help with this process. Might you be interested? If you are willing to assist with the coordination of human resources, call **410-715-3179** or email pam@volunteerhoward.org to register or to obtain more information.

April 2009

CERT – Citizen Emergency Readiness Training

James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center
2200 Scott Wheeler Drive - Marriottsville

For registration or more information go to:

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/FAR/far_cert.htm or contact Rich Philips at rphilps@howardcountymd.gov or call **443-472-8212**

Thursday, April 16 - Session 1 -Personal Preparedness (7-10 pm)

Saturday, April 18 - Saturday - mirror of Session 1 (8-11 am)

Tuesday, April 21 - Session 2 - ASHI First Aid, part 1 (7-10 pm)

Thursday, April 23 - Session 3 - ASHI First Aid, part 2 (7-10 pm)

Saturday, April 25 - mirror of Sessions 2 & 3 (8-11am and 12:30-3:30 pm)

Tuesday, April 28 - Session 4 Disaster Recovery, part 1 (7-10 pm)

Thursday, April 30 - Session 5 Disaster Recovery, part 2 (7– 10 pm)

Saturday, May 2- mirror of Sessions 4 & 5 (8-11am and 12:30-3:30 pm)

Saturday, April 25 from 10am – 2pm – Ready When the Time Comes

Call **410-715-3179** or email [**pam@volunteerhoward.org**](mailto:pam@volunteerhoward.org) to register or to obtain more information.

For additional information on volunteer opportunities or to view a copy of the Volunteer Center's Guide to Giving visit [**www.volunteerhoward.org**](http://www.volunteerhoward.org)

Rebuilding Together Howard County is Now Accepting Applications for Free Home Repairs!

Rebuilding Together Howard County is currently accepting applications from HoCo homeowners who are financially unable to make necessary repairs on their homes. All work is provided **Free of Charge**. Applications will be accepted through January and repair work will be completed during National Rebuilding Day on **April 25, 2009**. This is a wonderful opportunity! For more information and to fill out an application form, please visit [**http://www.rebuildingtogetherhc.org/index.shtml**](http://www.rebuildingtogetherhc.org/index.shtml)

Do you have a great idea for a TV program?

Howard County Government is accepting grant applications from Howard County residents who wish to produce their own Public Access Television programming. This is not a paid position. Grants help to defray production costs. The deadline for completed applications is **April 30, 2009**. For a grant application, please call the **Office of the Cable Administrator at 410-313-3318**.

Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community, designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation, and to encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors. For more information please contact the Howard County Police Department **at 410-313-2200**.

NeighborRide offering NO-COST Transportation for Seniors in April!

In celebration of Volunteer Appreciation Month, Neighbor Ride, a volunteer-based nonprofit dedicated to decreasing isolation and improving the quality of life for Howard County's older residents, is teaming up with the Volunteer Center Serving Howard County to promote volunteerism among those 60 and over. **NO-COST transportation will be available to seniors for their volunteer activities throughout the month of April**, officially designated as Volunteer Appreciation Month. The no-cost rides will be provided through Neighbor Ride's Senior Volunteer Fund, established with generous support from the Ascend One EDGE Fund.

Seniors wondering where their special skills and talents are needed in the community are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Center Serving Howard County at info@volunteerhoward.org or (410) 715-3172. They can also check the Center out on the web at www.volunteerhoward.org. Next, senior volunteers may contact Neighbor Ride at information@neighborride.org or (410) 884-RIDE for information about registering as passengers and scheduling their no-cost rides. More information can also be found online at www.neighborride.org.

Blandair Regional Park News!

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board unanimously voted to adopt the proposed 2008 Blandair Master Plan. The consultant will now move towards the design phase of this project. The Master Plan is scheduled for submittal to the Department of Planning and Zoning in July 2009. To view the full project schedule please click the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/RAP_BlandairRegPark.htm

Thank you to the Blandair Advisory Committee for all of their hard work and dedication, especially those members who represented the residents and communities in council district 2.

To view the proposed plan click the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/RAPDocs/2008_Blandair_Master_Plan.pdf

You are encouraged to participate in the planning process of Blandair. To submit comments, questions or concerns via email you may contact

rdelerme@howardcountymd.gov . Written comments may be submitted to

Gary J. Arthur, Director, Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia MD 21046.

Dr. Calvin Ball

Council Member, District 2

http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/Dist2_Bio.htm

410-313-2001

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can." George Bernard Shaw